

GENERAL

1. French request US statement on MAP-- French Foreign Minister Schuman has given Secretary of State Acheson an aide memoire expressing the concern of the French Government in connection with the submission of the Atlantic Pact to the French Assembly. The aide memoire declares that the Assembly debate would open under more favorable circumstances if the US had already clarified the "military and strategic consequences" which France may expect from the Pact. The Government fears that in the absence of such clarification the Assembly may attach reservations which would greatly limit the scope of the Pact.

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The French Foreign Office has advised US Embassy Paris that Schuman would be greatly aided in his effort to get the widest possible support of the Pact if the Military Aid Program were introduced into Congress before the French Assembly begins its debate. The Foreign Office emphasizes that Schuman hopes to obtain US permission to make use publicly of assurances previously obtained in Washington that: (a) US strategy contemplates the defense of Western Europe; and (b) the US intends to establish, within the organization envisaged by the Pact, a combined staff representing the US, Canada, the UK, and France.

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